



The Daily Challenge

Oregon National Guard Youth Challenge Program

° Dream, Believe, Achieve °™

By: Cadet Lopez

What brought me here? I think of that every day and I come to find out that I'm here for some bad decisions I've made. I'm not a bad kid and I'm sure that's proved by the fact that I'm here, in search of a change. I'm just a kid who is trying to discover who I really am and what I'm really made of. I refused to sit back and watch life pass by me so here I am, week 18; stronger than ever. Everything we go through here is extremely hard to explain. No one could possibly understand what it feels like to be a cadet here at OYCP, unless you've lived it. Living it is a completely different thing than just hearing it.

The first couple weeks are the hardest weeks ever, not so much for the physical demand but more for the types of emotions we go through. We start getting all kinds of different feelings that are so hard to control. This place breaks us apart but builds us back up as totally different people. Our weaknesses become strengths, but at the same time our emotions remain grounded, in a sense of caring for other people and ourselves. We learn respect and discipline. We set our minds in a place where we believe we have the strength to overcome anything as long as we put our heart into it and it's very true.

We give our 110% in everything we do and there's no way we couldn't achieve it. But what's most important over all is that we discover the true meaning of a family. Our families become our most prized possessions. We realize that they're the ONLY people that stay loyal to us under any circumstance. We couldn't do it without them.

I'm extremely proud of myself for the things I've accomplished here at OYCP. Even though it seemed impossible at the beginning, I'm currently finding out I was wrong. It's very possible as long as we give it our best. I can't wait for that day I get to walk across that stage. It's only 4 weeks away. I'm very proud to say I'm an OYCP cadet.





Rewards Trip

Pt.3

By: Cadet Mejia

It all started Sunday morning, six A.M. to be exact. "Wake Up! Wake Up! Wake Up!" We girls; "We're up!" Mrs. Reck, "Come on let's move with speed and intensity or we'll just have to do it all over again. Secure your canteens. Go! Ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two, one, Ze-e-r-o-o! Left face, file down. To the latrine, forward, march."

It was a typical Sunday morning at OYCP. Count downs, 35 girls, Mrs. Reck, Mrs. Silva, colors, and then breakfast. As I was observing around the chow hall, I sensed the excitement in the air. Obviously Mrs. Silva sensed the same aura in the air judging by the comment she was quick to make, due to an incident which occurred a day before.

"Mejia sure looks excited with her black eye. Are you excited Third?" Chow couldn't have gone by any slower.

After chow and stopping by the latrine, we marched straight to our bay to retrieve our hiking packs. All the girls were given the task to double check their pack and neighbors' pack as well just to make sure we wouldn't forget anything essential for our trip. After being absolutely sure, we were given the order to march to our bus.

Starting off on our trip, I must say, we were extremely excited not knowing what we're truly getting into. Nobody really knew how to feel about the hike. After arriving around nine A.M. we got off the bus breaking off into squad formation in the parking lot. Merging into a single line, we headed for our final destination. We walked about a quarter of a mile through some small pine trees; we arrived at a foot bridge about two feet high over a fast moving stream. McGreevy and I not thinking twice stepped up and were over the bridge in a matter of seconds. Upon first reaching the other side we had begun the hike towards the lake. We walked about twenty minutes until we reached our first view, stopping by to see a playful stream. We snapped a couple of pictures and refreshed ourselves. Once again we walked towards the lake with stragglers lagging behind. But Swan, Tayun, McGreevy and I, were in front, right on Mrs. Silva's heels. We walked for about thirty minutes, crossing two foot bridges, much smaller than the first by far.

Then after crossing the third bridge, we made it to a nice grassy plain. We then found ourselves in a forested area, reaching a single path with a stream on its left side. We walked for a while reaching a fork in the road. One path leading towards Green Lake and the other path heading toward Soda River. We took the one straight ahead up a steep hill. Once reaching the top and walking a short distance down the hill through a lava rock path, there it was; the lake was as green as ever. We'd done it! We reached our mission and we're proud of our accomplishments.

Platoon 1 Beat

By: Cadet Harding



You may be wondering what the "Platoon One Beat" is. In short it is just a few compositions from the once troubled youth, here at OYCP, trying to express how they feel. At OYCP we have youth who, back in their old environments, were most likely written off as not very intelligent and looked upon as though they didn't have much to offer. With this article I wanted to show you all what is on some of our cadet's minds. I know everyone has at one point or another wondered what we think about here at OYCP. Here is an opportunity for you to now understand our emotions a little bit better. I hope you enjoy this little piece of insight into the working of the young minds here at OYCP.

Left and My Right

By: Cadet Rogers

Waking up in the morning,
 I'm hearing a cadre scream,
 Tellin' me to get up and get ready for drill team
 I'm thinking they're mean
 Also I'm thinkin' they're rude
 But my mind stays right, a positive attitude
 Don't get me wrong
 Because I like the motivation
 None of them down low thoughts of my anger concentrations
 I gotta stay locked
 I gotta be tight
 Step out the bay on my left
 I never leave on my right
 I got fresh tight creases in my B.D.U.'s
 Camouflage from the top to my polished boots
 Wolverine's the best platoon #1
 When we do our right face
 Shoes sound like shot gunz
 We be having top fun
 Though every day's a fight
 But I maintain' focus
 Just got my life right
 I sound off loud when I do my war cry,
 Down for squad #1 till the day that I die
 I remember the first day I thought I was so fly
 Givin' lip to the staff cuz the rules didn't apply
 I got used to the system and now I see
 What I gotta do to succeed at OYCP
 Squad leader #1
 Cadets know me as the muscle
 I work my self hard, cuz every day I gotta hustle
 Throughout the day like a jet
 I gotta take flight
 Attention to my marchin' off on my left to my right



Interview: *Cadet Vibbert*

By: Cadet Kaiser

Cadet Vibbert had a good reason to come to OYCP. He was a stoner attending Redmond High School. He enjoyed getting drunk in the woods and showing up at any party in the area. Vibbert stated, "My life pretty much ran on beer and gasoline." Vibbert eventually decided there was really no reason for him to even show up at school anymore and dropped out. He didn't dare look at what his future would be like, until his parents told him that he would no longer be allowed to live in their house if he continued on his destructive path.

Here at OYCP, Cadet Vibbert is dealing with his surroundings quite well. He still does not enjoy it, but with the 14 credits he already had, he will be able to graduate with his diploma. He enjoys chow and physical training the most out of everything we do here. His favorite part of PT is running the perimeter, because it gets him out in the woods again. Vibbert says, "My favorite class is Newsletter because it is relaxing and laid back."

Vibbert hated pre-challenge, like most of us did. His worst moment in the program happened during this time period. On 2nd Platoon's way to showers, Mr. Bartness yelled at the Cadet for looking at him. Vibbert, feeling aggravated, yelled, "Screw you!" and walked off. Another bad choice he made resulted in a word of advice from him: "Don't take cookies from the DFAC!"

Cadet Vibbert likes to go hunting, fishing, and mudding with his 1991 Toyota pickup. Vibbert plans on living in Redmond with his parents until he has saved up enough money to get his own place. He is planning on joining the National Guard, because he wants to serve his country and this part time commitment suits him the best. He is looking forward to the Montgomery GI Bill to help pay for college. He plans to attain his Bachelors degree which will also help with getting a job with the Fish and Game Commission, a job that would pay more than just the bills. Vibbert feels it is very important to work at a job he enjoys.

Cadet Vibbert has grown mentally and physically since he first started at OYCP. He achieved the physical fitness ribbon for outstanding PT performance and he is excelling in all of his classes, which he is excited about. He is looking forward to graduation when his parents will be proud to see how much he has changed and how much he is pushing forward with his life.

Interview: *Mrs. Ruel*

By: Cadet Murphy

Mrs. Ruel's favorite subject to teach is English. When asked what her least favorite subject to teach was her response was "I don't know, I like all subjects I teach. I'm old and I'm still learning. I'm a lifetime learner." What made her want to work at OYCP? "I like all the students here, especially the ones I work with. I like to see them succeed. They all give me hope in the next generation." Mrs. Ruel is the heart and soul of OYCP. Without her input, OYCP would have been a very different place. Mrs. Ruel is loved and admired by the thousands of cadets she has taught over the years. OYCP will be a sad place when she retires at the end of this class.

Mrs. Ruel has done a lot of interesting and inspiring things in her life. Art and reading are her favorite activities to do other than her work. Mrs. Ruel has worked at OYCP for 14 years. Over the years, Mrs. Ruel has seen all kinds of behavior from cadets. "One time cadets climbed under the floor and got blue paint all over them." Her advice for incoming cadets is "Do your best, ask questions." I was curious as to the positives and negatives of this job. She replied "I can teach what I want. I have great staff, teachers and students. I dislike getting up and driving in the snow in the morning."

Mrs. Ruel is a wise woman many students look up to. She has a great deal of patience and has helped us a lot while we've been here at OYCP. Mrs. Ruel makes it possible for many cadets to complete the program. Without Mrs. Ruel many cadets would not succeed in life. Mrs. Ruel graduated from high school in Santa Ana, California. She later attended UCLA where she studied History. After graduation, she was a sister at St. Joseph of Orange, California. Upon leaving the convent, Mrs. Ruel went on to evaluate high schools in California for accreditation, and taught in the Solomon Islands, California, and Texas.





Relationship Building

By: Cadet McGreevy

They say everything happens for a reason but when you're in a bad situation it can be difficult to find the reason. Putting aside all the bad memories, crying and wasted energy, I would have to agree with what they say. Eventually you will have something better come from the situation, laugh it off, or just simply accept it.

Unfortunately OYCP class 38 has a problem. This problem has had quite a few cadets regret an action or two. This problem is relationship building. Relationship building defined by several cadets, varies. Some say it is as little as eye contact, others say "falling" for each other is relationship building. An anonymous cadet said, "It's like, I was the school nerd, she was the pretty popular girl and the cadre are the jocks."

At any normal high school finding a significant other is not an issue but OYCP is anything but a normal high school. We're all mainly here for two reasons; school and change. Everyone is here to focus on bettering themselves. Not everyone can stay focused. When asked what good has come of relationship building at OYCP, the answer, "Nothing" was the most common. "I learned to deal with my consequences in a professional way. I'm happy, I had my lesson taught here as opposed to the real world where the consequences could have been worse."

Women in society are held to a high standard when it comes to looks. "To be here with no make-up, no tweezers, no hair products, and still have a guy genuinely like you means a lot more here than it would out of the program."

These cadets I've interviewed have all learned a lot from their mistakes or their second ones, hopefully. When asked if they had any advice or last words relevant to relationship building at OYCP the answers varied but followed a common theme. "Trust no one.", "Wait till graduation!", "What would Ms. DuPont do?", "Just follow the handbook", "We're are innocent!" are just a few comments from these cadets.

My personal advice to cadets on relationship building is to remember why you came here. I'm sure no one came here with making friends on their mind, let alone trying to find a girl or boyfriend. Think back to that first day here, getting screamed at while you ran though the library. What were your hopes for your future at OYCP? What are they now? And are any of these hopes and dreams worth it with some guy or girl who wears nothing but green?

Interview: Cadet Ramon

By: Cadet Shepard



During class 38, there was one cadet who will be remembered as being not only a great CPL, but a cadet who kept the position for an entire month. Noelle Renee Ramon-Wonder is 17 years old and lives with her grandparents Dave and Jennifer in Cave Junction. She has three younger brothers, Jacob, Daniel and Aaron.

Cadet Ramon came to OYCP for credit recovery. She failed her junior year and did not pay attention in school. Ramon said the hardest time in her life was when she was taken away from her mom and brothers. Her hobbies are Kung Fu, which she loves to do with her dad, riding horses and reading.

The struggles that she has here are being away from home, living with 34 other females in one room and sharing a latrine with them. The first thing that she is planning to do after graduation is thank her mom and change into civilian clothes. She is looking forward to spending more time with her mom and dad, real food and chocolate.

Some of the things she really enjoys about OYCP are getting to know some of the other female cadets, Orientation, and working in the library. Some of the people I see her hanging out with are Cadets Swan, Lara, Ressler, Timmins and myself. She also enjoys working on the yearbook and Newsletter. She claims she does not have a favorite teacher or cadre, because she likes all of them equally although, she does prefer Mr. Lowy over the others.

Ramon is also involved in working on the Christmas float and she is one of the females trying out for the National Anthem. One thing that bugs her about the Christmas float is the fact that they all have to dress up as elves. "One of the males on the float is having the biggest issue with it though" said Ramon. He doesn't like the fact that they have to wear tights, and are going to freeze during the parade.

Ramon's plan for after OYCP is to join the National Guard ROTC program and go to OSU to get a degree in the medical field. She sees her future as being in the National Guard for 8 years working as a pediatrician or a physician's assistant, married and eventually having children.

Ramon's advice would be to focus on the here and now. Don't worry about the future too much because you can't control it. You can only control the here and now. Her favorite quote is by Nora Roberts. "If you don't go after what you want, you'll never have it. If you don't ask, the answer is always no. If you don't step forward, you are always in the same place."



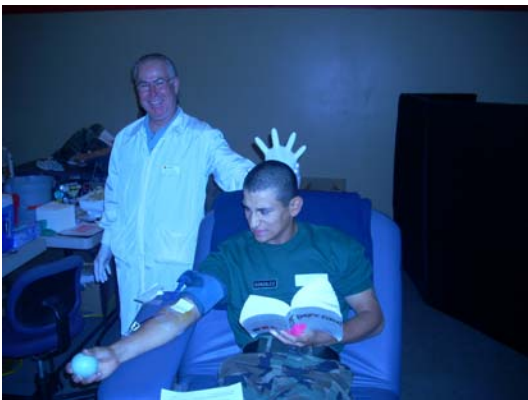
Blood-drive

By: Cadet Hampton

A cadet's worst nightmare: an organization of leeching vampires armed to their blood-sucking teeth with foot-long-needled syringes. Actuality: an organization of good hearted individuals working for an honest cause who are dedicated to saving lives and encouraging others to do so. And no bone-marrow sized needles, either. Contrary to the fears of many cadets, the process is made to be close to painless. Despite the reality of this previous statement, many cadets were turning white before they even had blood drawn.

On the 2nd and the 3rd of October, the drill floor of OYCP was turned into a blood donation center. To draw more of the student body to the cause, a full day of no physical activity along with snacks (Oreos, grandma's cookies, apple juice, etc.) provided at a cantina, in order to refresh you after the sometimes taxing process of drawing blood. Unlike last year, not a single cadet passed out during the weekend that the Red Cross ruled the drill floor. In the end, a total of 119 blood units had been collected; 65 the conventional way, and 54 double-red blood cell units had been gathered.

Double red blood cell- A machine that draws red blood cells and separates the platelets from it to get a full, pure unit of blood, and pumps the platelets back into the donor's blood stream along with saline.



Life Passes By

By: Cadet Coats

The years of my life,
Have gone by like the sands of an hour glass,
Just passing without me noticing.

Living life to its fullest,
Trying to have fun while I can.

Skipping school,
Hanging out with friends,
Doing whatever it takes to fail.

Succeeding got old.
I was never recognized.
But when I began to fail,

They started to notice that my future,
Had passed right by
Like the sands of an hour glass.

It was too late.
No one wanted to help me,
Even when I was down.

They only helped bring me down farther,
Thinking that it was funny,
To make me mad.

Never stopping to realize,
What they were doing to me.
Oh! How I just wanted to die.

Maybe this bad time of my life,
Would pass right by,
Like the sands of an hour glass,
Right into the good.

The grains of my life,
Would slow down,
And let the good times last.



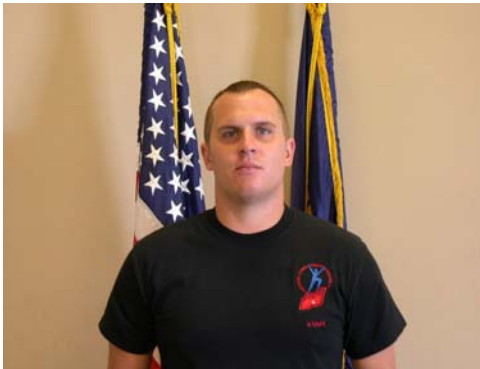


Cadre Bio's

Mr. Jurich

Mr. Sutterfield

By: Cadet Jones



What branch of the military were you in?

Army National Guard.

How long did you serve?

9 Years 21 Bravo, 19 Delta, 11 Bravo.

How long have you worked here?

Approximately 4 years.

Do you have a philosophy? If so, what is it?

Do your best at everything, and remember there is always room for improvement.

What you wanted to be growing up?

I wanted to be a soldier, police man, and a fire-fighter. I did all 3 of those to some extent.

Who's your hero/mentor?

I have had quite a few heroes and mentors I learned from their successes as well as their mistakes. Some were cops, one was a professional athlete and a few were soldiers.

Why did you join the military?

I joined the military to get out of my home town and prove to myself and others that I could be somebody. And to prove my dad wrong. He said I would never make it...ha!

What branch of the military were you in?

Army.

How long did you serve?

8 Years.

How long have you worked here?

3 months.

Do you have a philosophy? If so, what is it?

Always give 100% because if you don't, someone else will.

Do you have a quote or motto? If so, what is it?

You may give up on yourself, but I won't.

What you wanted to be growing up?

Rich.

Who's your hero/mentor?

My parents.

Why did you join the military?

To further my education and to serve my country.

How old are you?

34



Interview with Mr. Wunder

Phonetic Alphabet

By: Cadet Morris

Mr. Wunder Interview

For our third edition of *The Daily Challenge*, I sat down and spoke with Mr. Wunder of 1st platoon. Here are some of the things I discovered. Mr. Wunder, at 50 years of age, had spent over 20 years serving as a Cavalry Scout for the Army. He took part in Operation Desert Storm and peacekeeping operations in Bosnia. When I asked Mr. Wunder what drew him to OYCP, he said he had heard about it and thought it was a perfect fit after retiring from the armed forces. It was just the kind of job he wanted evidently so, as Mr. Wunder has been working here for 8 years. I asked him how the Oregon Youth Challenge stacks up to the army and Mr. Wunder responded with: "I'd say OYCP has a little more structure, a little more discipline."

On top of having an excellent work ethic, Mr. Wunder is also known among 1st platoon for his almost unreal level of stamina during PT. Cadets frequently ask him things like 'how much can you bench?' and 'how fast can you run a mile?' So I felt compelled to ask: "So you're in your 50's, but you can still put everyone in the platoon to shame during PT. How do you stay in such good shape?" to which Mr. Wunder said: "By not complaining about PT." Terse sarcasm, or some deceptively simple Zen wisdom? You can never really tell with 1st platoon's 4th squad leader. I asked Mr. Wunder how he stays so motivated and he said "The change I see in cadets and being part of the solution to the problems that face society. The most rewarding part is the kids who, at the start of the program, are the most problematic and then make the most dramatic turnaround. Also, I see myself in these kids, and wish the program had been around when I was their age." For my final question, I asked Mr. Wunder what his strangest experience at OYCP has been. He said: "I can't pick just one thing. Every single class there's something, just different faces."

The Wolverines should consider themselves fortunate to have someone as wise and dedicated like Mr. Wunder as a part of their platoon, in the opinion of this humble cadet.

By: Cadet Bray

Can you figure out the message below?

Oscar-Yankee-Charlie-Papa
 India-Sierra
 Tango-Hotel-Echo
 Bravo-Echo-Sierra-Tango
 Papa-Lima-Alpha-Charlie-Echo
 Tango-Oscar
 Golf-Oscar
 India-Foxtrot
 Yankee-Oscar-Uniform
 Alpha-Romeo-Echo
 Alpha
 Hotel-India-Golf-Hotel
 Sierra-Charlie-Hotel-Oscar-Oscar-Lima
 Delta-Romeo-Oscar-Papa-Oscar-Uniform-Tango
 Whiskey-Hotel-Oscar
 Whiskey-Alpha-November-Tango-Sierra
 Tango-Oscar
 Golf-Echo-Tango
 Tango-Hotel-Echo-India-Romeo
 Lima-India-Foxtrot-Echo
 Bravo-Alpha-Charlie-Kilo
 Oscar-November
 Tango-Romeo-Alpha-Charlie-Kilo
 Alpha-November-Delta
 Golf-Romeo-Alpha-Delta-Uniform-Alpha-Tango-Echo
 Hotel-India-Golf-Hotel
 Sierra-Charlie-Hotel-Oscar-Oscar-Lima

You can use the NATO phonetic alphabet for any kind of secret message, even your name! Try it out on your family and friends.

HAVE FUN!!

Alpha	November
Bravo	Oscar
Charlie	Papa
Delta	Quebec
Echo	Romeo
Foxtrot	Sierra
Golf	Tango
Hotel	Uniform
India	Victor
Juliet	Whiskey
Kilo	X-ray
Lima	Yankee
Mike	Zulu

Poems

In Walked a Man

In walked a man
He cheats, he lies, he deceives
Defrauding the system
Yet everyone believes

He came with promise
We held our hopes high
Yet no one foretold
The thousands that would die

Millions were mislead
Who thought he would betray?
Exactly what he needed,
Was the destruction on that day

A new Pearl Harbor
The event to support his lie
Yet no one foretold
The millions that would cry

By: Cadet Stillman

Going on nine years
The young perish, and the old
Linger

The blood is on his hands
Yet quick is he to point the finger

So here we are now
Left with the remains
Never will we bid rid of
The grief, the sorrow, the pain

A new day has arisen
No being shall be ignored
Our optimism is high
Our hope has been restored



Yes! I'd like to help Oregon Youth Challenge through the
Central Oregon Youth Investment Foundation.



Accreditation
through
2014

I am donating... (Please make checks payable to "Central Oregon Youth Investment Foundation")
____\$50 ____\$100 ____\$200 Other \$_____

I would like my donation to toward:

- Cadet Scholarships
- Program Improvements/Support

- I'm interested in volunteer opportunities at OYCP
- I'm interested in becoming a mentor for an OYCP youth
- I'd like more information about OYCP

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: Home: _____ Business Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please detach this form and send it, along with your check in care of:

Oregon Youth Challenge Program
23861 Dodds Rd. Bend, OR 97701
Phone: 541-317-9623



OUR MISSION: Is to provide opportunities for personal growth, self improvement and academic achievement among Oregon high school drop outs, youth no longer attending and those failing in school, through a highly structured non-traditional environment; integrating training, mentoring and diverse educational activities.